



COMMUNITY NEWS

District 3

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Holiday Safety Tips

By Officer Jason Glenn

The holiday season is a time for giving, sharing and enjoying family and friends. Unfortunately, it also can be a time when crime becomes more prevalent. Many of us will be pre-occupied purchasing gifts, decorating our homes, entertaining visitors, or traveling out of state to visit relatives. During this busy time it is important to take a few minutes away from the "decorating duty" and practice a few holiday safety tips. There is no better gift this holiday season than a safe and healthy gathering of family and friends. With this in mind, I have listed a few holiday safety tips that will reduce your risk of becoming a victim of a crime this holiday season.

Home Safety:

Remember, more than **65%** of residential burglaries in Scottsdale are unforced. Lock your doors and windows. Close your garage doors. Place your lights on timers if you are going to be away for an extended amount of time. Remove your gifts and valuables from your vehicles upon arrival at your residence. Lock your vehicle and remove the garage door opener if you park in your driveway.

Shopping Safety:

Park in well lit areas and shop before dark if possible. Be aware of your surroundings when approaching and leaving your vehicle. Shop with friends and family members. Avoid carrying large sums of money. Never leave your purse or valuables unattended. Request mall or store security for an escort to your vehicle at night if you feel unsafe.

MESSAGE FROM COMMANDER DUGGAN



As part of a command-level reorganization within the police department, I was assigned to District 1 in the southern part of the city on November 27th. While I look forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead, I am saddened to leave District 3. Over the past three years, we have worked diligently to develop safer neighborhoods through community partnerships and participation. I am especially grateful for the support we receive from the District 3 community and for your willingness to work together towards achieving our goals.

My successor, Commander Bill Wilton, assumed command of District 3 on November 27th. Commander Wilton is in his twentieth year of service with the Scottsdale Police Department and will bring much experience to his new position.

On behalf of all the men and women who serve the District 3 community, we wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

Commander Sean Duggan

Sduggan@scottsdaleaz.gov

Traffic Safety Zone

District 3 personnel will provide increased traffic enforcement in the area of Thompson Peak Parkway and Hayden Road during the month of December. Please drive carefully.



Scottsdale Fire Department Holiday Safety Tips

The holidays are a time for family, food and festivities...but a lack of preparation can leave you and your family with holiday hazards. Each year, 7500 people around the United States are treated for injuries related to holiday lights, decorations, and trees.

Here are some simple reminders that will help make whatever holiday you are celebrating happy and safe.

Candles:

Take care when lighting candles. Place them in sturdy, non-combustible holders, and keep them well away from decorations and other flammable materials. Don't leave children unattended in a room with candles, and always keep candles, matches and lighters out of their reach.

Holiday Trees:

Choose a fresh tree, and put it on a stand designed not to tip over. When purchasing a tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches, and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break.

The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when bounced on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles. When you bring a tree home, cut about an inch off the end of the trunk to help it absorb water.

Place the tree well away from heat sources, as they dry live trees rapidly. Water it constantly. A 6-foot tree will use one gallon of water every two days. A dried out tree can be totally consumed by fire in less than thirty seconds. If you purchase an artificial tree, make sure it is labeled as fire-retardant or resistant. Dispose of the tree properly. Do not burn it in the fireplace!

Lighting:

When decorating with lights, purchase only those that bear the mark of a testing laboratory. Check each set of lights, new or old for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Discard damaged sets. Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord. Don't overload electrical outlets. Always unplug all lights before leaving home or going to sleep. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.

Decorations:

Avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable. Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to avoid swallowing. Holly and mistletoe can be fatal to a small child. Even a small dose can cause serious medical problems.

For more information visit www.scottsdalefd.com or call 312-FIRE. If you would like more information on crime prevention information do not hesitate to contact me at (480) 312-8802 or e-mail me at gglenn@scottsdaleaz.gov.

CRIME TREND

A crime trend has emerged in District 3 involving burglaries from vehicles. Suspects are cutting battery cables to disable vehicle alarm systems. Once the alarm has been defeated, suspects remove various types of property from the interior of the vehicle (satellite radios, navigation systems, stereos, purses, briefcases, cell phones, credit cards etc.). Entry to vehicles is then often made via the driver side door. Vehicles are usually located in residential driveways or employee parking lots.

Quick tips:

1. Always lock your vehicle and remove valuables.
2. Install alarm with a battery backup system.
3. Park your vehicle in your garage and lock the door from your garage entering into your residence.
4. Utilize enhanced lighting around your property.
5. Report any unusual activity to the Police.

Calendar of Events

McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park hosts APS
Holiday Lights 12/9/05-12/30/05

More than 100,000 lights will adorn trees and displays during APS Holiday Lights. Festivities kick off at 6:30p.m. -9:00p.m. Friday, December 9th. The park is located on the southwest corner of Indian Bend and Scottsdale road. For more information call (480)-312-2312

The Scottsdale Police Department



Wants You!

The Scottsdale Police Department has excellent job opportunities in the following fields:

Police Officer, Police Aide, Communications, Detention Officers, Crime Lab, Records, and Crime Scene Specialists. Visit our website at www.Scottsdalepd.com or contact Officer Greg Carlin at 480-312-5384 gcarlin@scottsdaleaz.gov.